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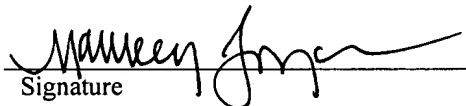
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kirwan et al.
Serial No: 09/744,698
Confirmation No: 3328
Filed: May 14, 2001
For: UNIVERSAL MODULAR SURGICAL APPLICATOR
SYSTEMS
Examiner: Roz Maiorino
Art Unit: 3763

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this response.